

Issue: EPA/Michigan Department of Environmental Quality MDEQ Cooperative Relationship Accelerates Cleanup at the Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site – Kalamazoo, Michigan

Messages:

- EPA and MDEQ have made significant cleanup progress over the last decade at the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River site, working cooperatively and utilizing combined resources.
- EPA and MDEQ have cleaned up various landfills and former paper mill properties at the Site. All sources of polychlorinated biphenyls from land-based operable units have been mitigated.
- EPA and MDEQ are working with the City of Kalamazoo to ensure cleanup and redevelopment of the Allied Landfill.
- EPA and MDEQ have cleaned up portions of the Kalamazoo River through five removal actions and remedial activities are currently underway for the entire river.
- Five time-critical removal actions (one still ongoing) have been implemented throughout nine river miles to address high levels of PCB contamination.

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Background/Status: The site was listed on the National Priorities List in August 1990 and consists of four landfills, five former paper mill properties, approximately 77 miles of the Kalamazoo River from Morrow Lake dam to Lake Michigan, and a three-mile stretch of Portage Creek – all contaminated with PCBs. EPA and MDEQ have worked in close partnership over the last ten years, making effective use of combined resources to ensure that the potentially responsible parties conduct technically-sound, cost-effective cleanups. Currently, EPA is overseeing cleanup work in a 1.7-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River near Otsego, Michigan, pursuant to an administrative order for air being conducted as part of a time-critical removal action. The removal action began in August 2016 and the order requires completion in is scheduled for completion in 2018, and is slated to. The cleanup will remove approximately 20,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment and soil. MDEQ actively participates in EPA's extensive robust community outreach activities, include including quarterly public meetings, fact sheets, newsletters, a list-serve, site tours, and individual outreach to smaller stakeholder groups. In a support agency capacity, MDEQ actively participates in community outreach and technical matters at the Site.

A local construction labor union is currently picketing in front of the Otsego removal action area, but both MDEQ and EPA do not believe it will impact the work.

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